



515-725-1400

Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner Newsletter

Issue

Number 2

5/15/07

LEGISLATION

What is ME 101 On the Road?

(Please see page 2 for more information.)

Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Act Grant Awardees



Unfortunately, this might be the last group our office will be able to send to the St. Louis University School of Medicine Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course.

The IOSME requested \$238,810 to fund 6 FTEs, the number of staff outlined in our pre-inspection accreditation report from the National Association of Medical Examiners in September. We were allocated 6 FTEs with only \$23,810. With this lack of adequate funding, we are unable to staff our office as required for accreditation from NAME. Without this accreditation, we may no longer be able to secure Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Act grant funds. In turn, we are unable to send County Medical Examiners and their investigators to St. Louis. With help and advice from our Advisory Council and the Interagency Coordinating Council we are hoping to rectify this situation. However, at this time the future is uncertain.

This year the following counties were awarded tuition, travel and room and board to St Louis in April 2007.

Mahaska
Linn
Palo Alto
Winnebago
Blackhawk

Clayton
Poweshiek
Fremont
Grundy

2007 legislation affecting our office:

HF925 2007 IDPH Omnibus bill

Status: Passed House & Senate to Governor

Sections of interest include:

Sec. 26. Section 144.28, subsection 1

If upon inquiry into the death, the county medical examiner determines that a preexisting natural disease or condition was the likely cause of death and that the death does not affect the public interest as described in section 331.802, subsection 3, the county medical examiner may elect to defer to the physician in charge of the patient's preexisting condition the certification of the cause of death.

HF 909 FY 2008 Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill

Status: Passed House & Senate to Governor

Sections of interest include:

An additional \$23,810 and 6 FTE's for staffing needs of the Office of the State Medical Examiner

SF 473 A bill for an Act allowing a competent adult to execute a written instrument directing the final disposition of that person's remains, including coordinating provisions, and providing applicability dates.

Status: The bill passed the Senate and was sent to the House for consideration. The House did not take action on this bill.

SF 509 AN ACT RELATING TO A REVISED UNIFORM ANATOMICAL GIFT ACT, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES.

Status: Signed April 5, 2007; Effective July 1, 2007

Sections of interest include:

142C.4A COOPERATION BETWEEN MEDICAL EXAMINER AND ORGAN PROCUREMENT ORGANIZATION == FACILITATION OF ANATOMICAL GIFT FROM DECEDENT WHOSE BODY IS UNDER JURISDICTION OF MEDICAL EXAMINER.

ME 101 ON THE ROAD

ME 101 is a popular hands-on learning session offered prior to the Iowa County Medical Examiner Conference in November. Since its popularity has grown, we will soon bring this session to a site near you.



The first session will be in Council Bluffs at the County Supervisor's Board Room on June 7 and 8. We will arrive on Thursday for a session from 6:00 to 10:00 pm, and repeat the session on Friday from 8:00 to noon.

The second session will be at the Spencer Fire House on August 30 and 31. Our first session will be Thursday from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. The session will be repeated on Friday from 8:00 to noon.

Registration forms and brochures for these two events have been mailed. You may call our office at 515-725-1400 for more information.

The Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner has applied for Continuing Education credits for this course through the entities listed below.

"This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Iowa Medical Society (IMS), through hipjoint sponsorship of Iowa Health-Des Moines (Methodist & Lutheran/Blank Children's) and the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner. Iowa Health-Des Moines (Methodist & Lutheran/Blank Children's) is accredited by the IMS to provide continuing medical education for physicians."

What will be covered in ME 101 On the Road?

- Review accurate completion of the ME-1 Form.
- Describe how to conduct a thorough medicolegal death scene investigation.
- Review the roles of the ME and the ME Investigator at a death scene.
- Discuss the scientific basis of human identification.
- Identify the necessary tasks at infant death scene investigations.
- Describe the types of deaths investigated in Iowa.
- Discuss the Medicolegal system and administrative rules pertinent to death investigation in the state of Iowa.
- Determine which cases come under medical examiner jurisdiction and which ones need to have an autopsy.
- Discover strategies for establishing cost effective contracts for body transportation and reimbursement for medicolegal death investigation.



"Iowa Health-Des Moines (Methodist & Lutheran/Blank Children's) designates this educational activity for a maximum of 3.50 AMA PRA Category 1

Credit(s)™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity."

Iowa Nurses Foundation is Nursing Continuing Education Provider #25, Approved by the Iowa Board of Nursing. Iowa Nurses Foundation is the program co sponsor. Cosponsored by Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner's Office Nurses will receive 4.1 contact hours. Physicians will receive 4 contact hours

Iowa Donor Network

Iowa Donor Network January 1 – December 31, 2006 Non Hospital Death Referral and Donor Activity Report

**Hospice & Nursing Home deaths are not included*

Referring Agency	Referrals	Tissue Donor
Polk County Medical Examiner	85	7
Scott County Sheriff's Department/ME	10	0
Spirit Lake EMS	8	3
Johnson County Medical Examiner	10	5
Carroll County ME	2	1
Home/Scene Death (ILEB)	2	1
Buena Vista Medical Examiner	1	0
Muscatine Medical Examiner	2	0
Ackley Volunteer Ambulance	1	0
Bremer County Sheriff's Department	1	0
Clay County Medical Examiner	2	0
Hiawatha EMS/Linn County ME/Area Ambulance	4	0
Funeral Homes	5	0
Unknown Medical Examiner	1	0
Cerro Gordo County Medical Examiner	3	3

Total number of **referrals**: **142**

Total number of **tissue donors**: **21**

UPDATE FROM ISSUE ONE

Unfortunately we ran into problems with the cooling of our communications room, which has delayed installation of our specialized medical examiner software. We are in the process of installing an additional air conditioning unit. When that installation is complete, work on installing new software and the server can begin.

Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner's Commitment to Education

In addition to providing high quality death investigation for law enforcement and families grieving the loss of a loved one, the staff at the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner is dedicated to educating future physicians and physician's assistants through our affiliation with Des Moines University Osteopathic School of Medicine and the University of Iowa medical school. We have designed two forensic pathology programs for students at Des Moines University, a 4th year elective rotation for medical students, and an elective rotation for physician's assistants. Our 4th-year medical student rotation has been very popular, and the students' evaluations have been enthusiastic. We are a part of the University of Iowa medical school's community based primary care clerkship, where we educate the medical students about our office's role in the public health system. Staff at the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner considers education of health care professionals, law enforcement officials, legal representatives, and the general public an integral part of our duties. We take great pride in being able to fulfill this responsibility.

IOSME 2007 Statistics (through April)

Cases performed: 163
Cremation Permits Signed: 177
Death Certificates Signed: 123
Homicides autopsied: 13

Where can I find information about the IOSME?

CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE

http://www.idph.state.ia.us/do/medical_examiner.asp



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